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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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During the day of 7 September 1949 three trucks full of men wearing red **spoulettes** from the town of Drogobych arrived at Oriv. They numbered about 50 men under the command of a captain, name unknown. They divided themselves into two groups, one of which went round the fields as though measuring something, while the others walked round the village collecting agricultural taxes and rates. This Bolshevik activity was simply a camouflaged preparation for the deportation of peasants to Siberia.

In the evening the Bolsheviks gathered in the premises of the village council; they were joined by three more groups from Drogobych, each 20 strong, and by yet another group of unknown strength which came from Borislav under the command of an official named Babkin. The Bolsheviks then divided into smaller units and about four o'clock dispersed in the village, taking with them the employees of the village council to point out the cottages of those peasants who were on the list for deportation to Siberia,

The Bolsheviks woke up the peasants and ordered them to pack their belongings and be ready for deportation. At the same time they began to plunder and terrorize the peasants. A group of six Bolsheviks under the leadership of Babkin entered the house of a peasant named K. They woke him up and Babkin ordered him and his family to get ready for deportation to Siberia. While they were packing their belongings the peasant slit a pillowcase where he kept his savings and extracted the money. Babkin noticed this and took two of his men and ordered the peasant to follow them to the barn. When they arrived there, the peasant was ordered to open the doors and, while he was busy doing this, a series of shots were aimed at him and he fell dead. Babkin took the money, amounting to 3,000 krb, and, continuing to shoot, began to shout, "The bandit escaped". The family of the dead man, especially his daughter K, who witnessed this murder and robbery, began to cry, "Robbers you have killed our father for his money!" As a result, the Bolsheviks ill-treated them, not allowing them to take any of their belongings with them.

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A group of ten Bolsheviks arrived at the house of K and ordered the whole family to get ready for deportation. While they were packing the son, K, went behind the cottage and, finding no guards there, escaped towards the forest. When the Bolsheviks discovered this, they opened fire and chased him, but without success. They came close to the forest and shouted to him to come back, promising that nothing would happen to him. However, they were unsuccessful and, returning to the cottage, they ill-treated sixty-year-old peasant K. They beat him mercilessly, breaking his wrist and not allowing him to bandage it.

Another Bolshevik unit of ten men entered the house of B and ordered the family to pack their belongings. The peasant told them: "I will not move; you can kill me in my own cottage, on my own soil. I have no desire to go anywhere else to die!" The Bolsheviks then began to strike him with the butts of their rifles, but B got hold of one man and started to choke the life out of him, but the others pressed him so hard that he had to let go. In a towering rage he got hold of a piece of iron; but before he could throw it they overpowered him, tied his hands and legs, put him on a commandeered cart and took him to the premises of the local club.

When the peasants had their belongings packed, the Bolsheviks herded them in the premises of the club and the captain read out to each family the explanation of their being deported to Siberia. Afterwards they were all put on to the cars and commandeered carts on which the Bolsheviks had loaded their plunder. Many peasants, friends and neighbors of those who were being deported, gathered round the club with parcels of food for their departing friends. Seeing this, the Bolsheviks shouted, "Only bandits support and help bandits! Do not worry--they go today; you will follow tomorrow!"

As the deportees were leaving the village they shouted to the Bolsheviks, "Where are you taking us? You have destroyed others; now you want to destroy us!"

At 1400 hours the Bolsheviks formed a convoy and transported all the deportees to the railway station at Lubointsi, where they were loaded into railway cars and taken to the concentration camp at Borislav. In cold and hunger they were kept there for a month. While at the camp they were forced to sign a petition for a voluntary resettlement in the east and were promised all sorts of good things.

After this mass deportation from the village of Oriv, two more families were later deported, among them the head of the village council, K, whose wife was Russian. While they were being loaded into a motor car K sang Ukrainian national songs. They were also taken to the concentration camp at Borislav.

The following were deported:

27 families, including	16 men
	30 women
	<u>18 children</u>
	Total 64 persons

Note: During the deportation procedure, one man managed to escape from his cottage. The fate of the deported is unknown.

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